

## Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 SSO-00 FPC-01 EB-08 TRSE-00  
L-03 IGA-02 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 INRE-00 COME-00  
INT-05 /042 R

DRAFTED BY LA/CAR:WWRHODES/KAR

APPROVED BY LA/CAR:WBWHEELER

ARA/CAR:GDESANTILLANA (SUBS)

OFDA:CHOLMES (DRAFT)

-----212342Z 030668 /62

O 212304Z MAR 77

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, HA

SUBJECT: POWER SHORTAGE

REF: STATE 055218

1. AMBASSADOR SALOMON TELEPHONED DEPARTMENT AT 11:35  
MARCH 21 TO SAY HE WAS TRANSMITTING A DIPLOMATIC NOTE  
REQUESTING USG HELP IN FINDING EMERGENCY ELECTRIC GEN-  
ERATING EQUIPMENT. THE NOTE WAS DELIVERED ABOUT  
1:30 P.M. TEXT FOLLOWS: BEGIN QUOTE: "THE EMBASSY OF  
HAITI PRESENTS ITS COMPLIMENTS TO THE HONORABLE STATE  
DEPARTMENT OF THE UNITED STATES AND HAS THE HONOR TO  
CALL ITS ATTENTION TO AN URGENT PROBLEM CONFRONTED BY THE  
COUNTRY IN THE AREA OF ELECTRIC ENERGY.

-THE GOVERNMENT OF HAITI HAS MADE CONSTANT EFFORTS TO  
INCREASE PRODUCTION OF ELECTRICITY AND STATISTICAL  
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FIGURES INDICATE THAT PRODUCTION HAS MORE THAN DOUBLED  
IN 10 YEARS TO ATTAIN THE 151.2 MILLION KWH LEVEL IN 1975.  
BUT BY THAT YEAR PRODUCTION WAS WAY BEHIND CURRENT  
DEMAND AND NEED OF EXPANSION OF SMALL INDUSTRIES, ASSEMBLY  
PLANTS AND NEW HOUSING DEVELOPMENT AREAS.

"TO COPE WITH THAT SITUATION THE GOVERNMENT OF HAITI HAS

UNDERTAKEN A COMPLETE SURVEY OF THE HYDRO-ELECTRIC RESOURCES OF THE COUNTRY AND SIGNED WITH THE WORLD BANK A CREDIT AGREEMENT TO FINANCE A NEW THERMIC PLANT AT A COST OF 18 MILLION, THE COUNTER PART FUNDS FROM HAITI BEING 2 MILLION. THE COMPLETION IS FORSEEN FOR THE END OF THIS YEAR IF ALL GOES ACCORDING TO PLANS.

"IN THE MEAN TIME THE ACTUAL OUT-LOOK OF ELECTRIC ENERGY HAS WORSEND SINCE PRODICTION HAS PLUMETED TO ONLY 35 PER CENT WITH THE DROUGHT WHICH EFFECTED THE CENTRAL PART OF THE COUNTRY DURING THE LAST 5 MONTHS, BRINGING THE WATER LEVEL AT THE PELIGRE ARTIBONITE DAM BELOW THE CRISIS LINE.

"THIS SITUATION RESULTED IN AN OVERALL RATONING TO THREE HOURS OF POWER CONSUMPTION IN URBAN AREAS AT THE PEAK TIME, AND THE REDUCTION TO 50 PER CENT CAPACITY OF ALL INDUSTRIAL ESTABLISHMENTS WITH THE EFFECTS ON EMPLOYMENT, ECONOMIC PRODUCTION, AND QUALITY OF LIFE AND SECURITY IN GENERAL.

"IT IS THE REASON WHY THE GOVERNMENT OF HAITI SOLICITS THE URGENT ASSISTANCE OF THE HONORABLE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES TO HELP FIND EMERGENCY ELECTRIC POWER EQUIPMENTS.

"THE GOVERNMENT OF HAITI HOPES TO BE ABLE TO FIND TWO GENERATING POWER PLANTS WITH A CAPACITY OF 6.000 KW H EACH OR THREE SMALLER UNITS WITH 4.500 KWH CAPACITY. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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"THE EMBASSY OF HAITI WILL APPRECIATE, IN ALL ITS VALUE THE KIND ATTENTION WHICH WILL BE RESERVED TO THAT URGENT REQUEST AND WHILE EXPRESSING ITS GRATITUDE, TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO RENEW TO THE HONORABLE STATE DEPARTMENT THE ASSURANCES OF ITS HIGHEST CONSIDERATION." END QUOTE.

2. AS HAS BEEN STATED ON THE PHONE WITH EMBASSY, OFDA CANNOT PROVIDE ASSISTANCE IN THIS AREA UNTIL AN ASSESSMENT HAS BEEN MADE BY OFDA SPONSORED ENGINEERS AND UNTIL A DISASTER HAS BEEN DECLARED BY THE AMBASSADOR. OFDA WILL THEN ONLY FUND GENERATORS IF CRITICAL NEED IS DETERMINED, SUCH AS THE NEED FOR A GENERATOR TO POWER A HOSPITAL. MOREOVER, GENERATORS WILL BE PROVIDED ON A SHORT TERM BASIS.

3. AS NOTED IN OFDA CONFERENCE CALL WITH AMBASSADOR TODAY, EMBASSY COMMENTS REQUESTED RE: CONTENTS DIPLOMATIC NOTE IRRESPECTIVE OF WHETHER AMBASSADOR DECLARES EMERGENCY.

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** DIPLOMATIC NOTES, ELECTRIC GENERATORS  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Sent Date:** 21-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977STATE062638  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** WWRHODES/KAR  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D770096-1149  
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**Litigation History:**  
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**Message ID:** ba9cd4b4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ORIGIN ARA  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
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**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
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**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** POWER SHORTAGE  
**TAGS:** ENRG, EQUIP, HA, US  
**To:** PORT AU PRINCE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
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